PS199B  Taiwan: Domestic Politics and External Threats  
Spring 2004  
M W 5:30 PM-6:45 PM (Perkins 307)

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Course Description

Tension and conflict have persisted across the Taiwan Straits for the last five decades. In this course, we will study the causes of and possible solutions to this contest between Taiwan and mainland China. Specially, we will discuss the effects of the following factors on the status quo in the Taiwan Strait: (1) evolving public opinion in Taiwan on the independence versus unification issue, (2) the US security commitments to Taiwan, (3) China’s growing military threats, and (4) the increasing trade relations between Taiwan and mainland China. We will also pay close attention to the upcoming Taiwan presidential election on March 20, 2004 and discuss how the election outcome might influence Taiwan’s relations with the mainland, and its implication for the United States.

Grading:

1.) Class Participation, 20%: Class attendance and participation in discussion are highly encouraged. I will call on you to express your opinions on readings or issues we discuss in class. If you are absent or if you do not keep up with the reading, your class participation grade will be affected.


4.) Final paper, 40%: Students will do an analytical essay or short research paper of 15-20 double spaced pages on a subject mutually agreed upon by the student and instructor. One page proposal due March 31; Final paper due April 19.

Readings:

Rigger, Shelley, Politics in Taiwan (Routledge 1999)
Meetings and Assignments

1 (1/7). Organization and Introduction: An explanation of scope of the course, readings and student assignments.

2 (1/12 & 1/14). US/ROC-Taiwan/PRC Relations: Alliance, Civil War, Containment.

   The Mao Years, Part I (video, 60 minutes)
   Clough, Ralph, *Island China*, 1-32; 95-147 (recommended)
   Clough, Ralph N. 1999. *Cooperation or Conflict in the Taiwan Strait*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.11-29 (recommended)

3 (1/21). Nixon’s China Game

   Henry Kissinger’s Secret Trip to China: National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 66 [http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB66/#docs](http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB66/#docs) (recommended)
   *Nixon’s China Game* (PBS video, 60 minutes)

4 (1/26 & 1/28). US/Taiwan/PRC Relations Since US-China Normalization: Three Communiqués and the Taiwan Relations Act


5 (1/31) Conference on Stability and Change in the Taiwan Strait

   Kresge Classroom, R. David Thomas Conference Center, 9am-5pm
   Lunch & Dinner will be provided.

6 (2/2). The International Legal Status of Taiwan

7 (2/4). Taiwan’s Participation in International Organizations

Cho Hui-Wan, Taiwan’s Application to GATT/WTO: Significance of Multilateralism for an Unrecognized State, (Westport, Conn: Praeger, 2002), 139-170.

(1st book review due on 2/4)

8 (2/9). Political Development Under Chiang Ching-kuo and Later

Rigger, Shelley, Politics in Taiwan (Routledge 1999) pp. 1-131

9 (2/11 & 2/16). Status and Prospects for Taiwan's Domestic Development.

Rigger, Politics in Taiwan pp. 131-194
Explaining Chen Shui-bian’s Victory in the 2000 Presidential Election,” Electoral Studies.

10 (2/18). 1996 Taiwan-Strait Crisis

Frontline: Dangerous Straits (PBS video, 60 minutes)

11 (2/23 & 2/25). U.S. Role in the Cross-Strait Relations


12 (3/1 & 3/3). Public Opinion on the Taiwan Independence Issue

Brett Benson and Emerson Niou, “Public Opinion, Foreign Policy, and Security Balance in the Taiwan Strait”.

(3/8 & 3/10) Spring Break
(3/15 & 3/17) no classes


Brett Benson and Emerson Niou, “Trade and Peace: A Game-Theoretic Analysis”

15 (4/5 & 4/7) China’s Military Threat to Taiwan and the United States

- Russ Howard, "Shorter Arms and Slower Legs or Longer Arms and Faster Legs--The PLA in the 21st Century"
- Andrew Scobell and Doug Frison, "China's Threat to Taiwan and the United States in the Era of Hu Jintao"
- Wei-chin Lee, "Drawing a Road Map of Taiwan's National Defense."
  (recommended)
- Emerson Niou, “Nuclear Deterrence Over Taiwan”

(4/12 & 4/14) reading and writing period for the final paper

16 (4/19 & 4/21) Student presentations

Final paper due. Each student will brief the class on the main findings of his or her paper.